

REMARKS

Claim 16 has been cancelled. The dependent claims all depend from Claim 9.

The invention concerns a continuous process that entails mixing highly viscous polymer melts as main stream in a flow tube with additives from a liquid side stream. The additives are premixed with part of the polymer melt in the side stream and the additive-containing side stream is fed through a feed line into the main stream. The combined streams are intensively mixed in a first static mixer and the resulting premixture is finely divided in a mixing tube of enlarged cross-section and in a second static mixer of finer structure.

Claims 13, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,344,507 (Wylin) the Examiner pointing specifically to columns 1-5, the Examples and to Claim 6.

Wylin disclosed an antistatic polymeric composition. The preparation of this composition - disclosed in column 8, lines 23 et seq. - is conventional. Nothing in this document is seen to describe or suggest the presently claimed features. As noted above, the inventive process entails premixing the additives with part of the polymer melt in the side stream and feeding the side stream into the main stream. The combined streams are intensively mixed in a first static mixer and the resulting premixture is then divided in a mixing tube of enlarged cross-section and in a second static mixer of finer structure.

Nothing in Wylin discloses or suggests the combination of underlined features and the rejection alleging obviousness is clearly untenable. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully urged.

Claims 5, 9-3 and 15-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,344,507 (Wylin) in view of U.S. Patent 4,093,188 (Horner).

The Wylin document and its shortcoming in the present context have been discussed above.

Horner disclosed a static mixer and a method of mixing fluids. Nothing in Horner may be combined with Wylin in a manner describing the presently claimed process and the rejection alleging obviousness over the combination of references is clearly untenable.

Believing the above represent a complete response to the Office Action and that the application is in condition for allowance, Applicants request the earliest issuance of an indication to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By _____


Aron Preis
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 29,426

Bayer MaterialScience LLC
100 Bayer Road
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15205-9741
(412) 777-3814
FACSIMILE PHONE NUMBER:
(412) 777-3902

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